



What is a formulary?

A formulary is a list of prescription drugs (generic or brand name) that a prescription drug plan will cover. It's also known as a preferred drug list or covered drug list.

Medicare prescription drug plans will have formularies. Only drugs on the plan's formulary will be covered by that plan. Drugs not on a plan's formulary will not be covered by that plan. Exceptions may be allowed for some beneficiaries, but the beneficiary or their provider would need to first file an appeal.

Ideally, you want a plan that covers most, if not all, of the drugs you take or as many of them as possible. Check plan formularies to see which ones best cover your drugs.

All formularies must include at least two drugs of each kind, based on the conditions treated by the drug. For example, a formulary or preferred drug list will always contain at least two drugs of the kind that treat high blood pressure, two that treat high cholesterol, two that treat arthritis, etc.

The list of preferred drugs is always available to you. It can be found on the website of the company that sold you the prescription drug plan, and it will be available to you in writing if you request it.

Medicare prescription drug formularies must cover all drugs in these categories:

- anticancer
- immunosuppressives
- HIV/AIDs
- antidepressants
- antipsychotics
- anticonvulsants

Remember, when you are calculating your costs and the value of a Medicare prescription drug plan, take into account that any of your prescriptions not covered by the plan will be out-of-pocket expenses to YOU.

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